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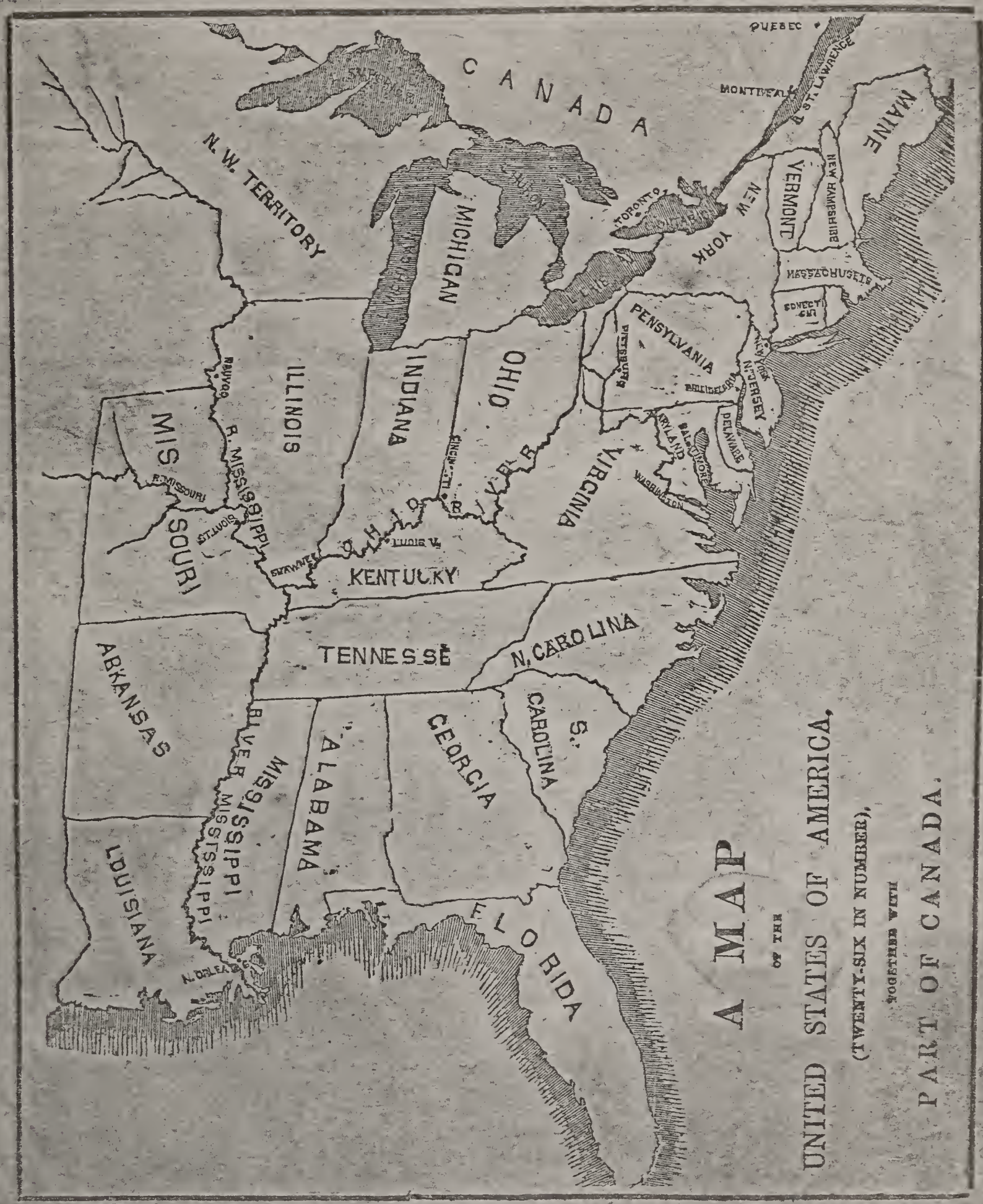
The Struggle.



A MAP
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
(TWENTY-SIX IN NUMBER),
TOGETHER WITH
PART OF CANADA.

No. 36.

UPB

NARRATIVE

OF JAMES GREENHALGH, COTTON SPINNER,

Egerton, near Bolton-le-Moors,

Shewing the occurrences and difficulties that himself, wife, and four children (the youngest one, and the eldest seven years old) endured, during an absence of twenty-three weeks from England; having sailed from Liverpool to New Orleans, and from thence traversing the course of the Mississippi to St. Louis, thence to Nauvoo, the Mormonites' settlement in the state of Illinois, from thence back to St. Louis and Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York, and from thence to Liverpool.

The following few lines I have written for the good of all who, like myself, have been discontented with political, as well as religious matters.

Being left without parents when young, and giving way to the opinions of discontented men, I began to entertain strange ideas upon religious matters. When, in 1839, there came into our neighbourhood a religious sect called the Latter-day Saints, or Mormonites. These professing to preach the fullness of the gospel as it was preached by our Saviour and his apostles of old, also to possess the same authority and power, I soon embraced and became a member of the same sect. About this time much distress prevailed in the manufacturing districts of this country; and the Mormonite preachers professed to know the will of the Almighty, making known both from the pulpit and the press, that distress would increase in this land, as well as in many other places. They also reported that the Almighty had made known a revelation to Joseph Smith, the prophet (so called by them), and that now the time had arrived for punishing all the nations of the earth for their wickedness; but that all who would embrace their doctrine and emigrate to Nauvoo, the Mormonites' settlement, would there find safety: also that there the Lord commanded a temple to be built, in which he would soon make known his will respecting the future destiny of the whole world. This Nauvoo has been set forth by them as a beautiful place—a paradise—the land of liberty, and a land flowing with milk and honey. Chamber's Journal, and many other works on emigration, have set forth the Western States of North America as being a fine country, where the small capitalist might soon make himself independent. These inducements, with those set forth by the Mormonites, induced me to leave a good home in hopes of finding a land of liberty, and a people that would serve the Lord in righteousness and live in love one with another. Accordingly, I, with my wife and children, parted from our friends in Egerton, having their blessings upon us, and their prayers for our welfare. We arrived in Liverpool on the 30th of January, 1842, where we found many more that were leaving this country under the same impressions as ourselves, a ship having been chartered by the heads of the Mormonite church in this land, namely, Mr. Amos Fielding, of Heskin, in Lancashire, and Mr. Parley Pratt, of America. All being ready, we sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans, on the 5th of February, in number about 270, all apparently in good health, and overjoyed with the thoughts of going to a land of liberty. Towards the end of our passage, however, much discontent prevailed, owing to the scarcity of water and provisions. The heads or agents having agreed to find a sufficiency for 10 weeks, but it fell short of 8 weeks, and some of the company had to purchase from the captain, they being in real want. Our temporary troubles soon subsided by the sight of New Orleans, where we landed on the 1st of April, having had a good and favourable voyage of eight weeks.

As soon as our anchor was cast, the custom house officers came on board and issued permits, for which they charged us 4 bits or 40 cents for each family, and 2 bits or 20 cents for each single person. We had then to go to the custom house to get the permits signed; they again charged us 2 bits or 20 cents. Each of the officers then examined our luggage, but not with same scrutiny as in Liverpool, allowing us to take our beds and bedding, pots, pans, knives, forks, spades, and all sorts of tools and cutlery, also our guns and many other articles without duty. While this was going on I went into the city (New Orleans,) and found a mixture of all sorts of people, and I suppose here may be found people from every nation. There is a market here every morning which is soon over. Provisions (at this time) were at the following prices, butchers meat 10 cents per lb. Let it be remembered that here as well as in several of the southern and western states, there is no copper coin, and the lowest silver coin being 5 cents or 2½ English. This makes it very difficult for the poor when they go to market. They cannot get a halfpennyworth of this, and a pennyworth of that as they can in England; so the poor are debarred of many little things which we enjoy. Butchers' meat, as I said before, 10 cents per lb., salt meat, hams, shoulders, and sides of hogs from 2 cents to 4 cents per lb., hogs lard 4 cents, fresh butter, 20 to 25 cents per lb., not so good as our tub butter, sugar 5 to 7 cents per lb., coffee, 16 to 18 cents per lb., tea 50 to 70 cents per lb., fine flour 4½ dollars per barrel, of 196 lbs.; milk very poor, 10 cents per quart, but the American quart is much less than an English quart. Vegetables of all sorts very high, fruits also very high, apples 4 or 5 small ones for a pickilume or 5 cents; strawberries, and black or bramble berries, 10 cents per quart, raisins 15 to 20 cents per lb. House rent in this city (New Orleans,) as well as all the parts we came through was very high. A house that would rent for 2s. per week in England would rent in America for 8s. per week. Some of our company having to change money gave us an opportunity of seeing the tricks practised upon strangers. Some of the store or shop keepers would offer 4 some 4½ and others gave 5 dollars for a sovereign. Remember the dollar here as well as in many other states is 80 cents per dollar; but in New York, Philadelphia, and some other places the dollar counts 100 cents, so it behoves the stranger to be careful how he changes money. The store houses (or shops) are generally very dirty, nothing like those in England for order and tidiness; the streets are very dirty, and in bad repair. When it rains, which is very heavy there, the water lodges in the street till the sun dries it up, this may be owing to the city being nearly on a level with the river. The inhabitants of New Orleans pay very little regard to the Sabbath day; I saw the store houses of all sorts open, and all busy except the market. Their much boasted liberty is carried out to a great length. It is common to hear of murders and other outrages. Whilst passing through the streets I saw 8 black female slaves standing for sale the same as our cattle stand in the market. They were decently dressed with turbans on their heads; their features bespoke modesty, and they looked much like an innocent prisoner at the bar. The owner of them (who had the appearance of one of our droviers,) appeared to be selling them, but I not understanding his language turned away, being disgusted with the sight. There is not much chance for a labouring man in these slave states, the slaves being prefered except with some humane families.

On returning to the ship, I found our company had agreed with the captain of a steam boat to take the whole number of us to to St. Louis, a distance of 1,200 miles up the Mississippi. The fare was 2 dollars per head, and children under 8 years of age free. Allowing us 100 cents per head, and all above to pay 50 cents per 100 cents. Remember, fares vary much upon these rivers, the captains being generally owners or partners, so they get what they can. These men take the advantage of strangers. I have known as much as a dollar per head in the difference of fares on the same boat. All being ready, we sailed from New Orleans on the 3rd of April for St. Louis, in hope of soon beholding that fine and beautiful country so much spoken of, but we were much disappointed. It is true we found, on the first 200 or 300 miles from New Orleans, large plains of well cultivated land, which appeared to be mostly sown with wheat. We saw large cotton and sugar plantations, and here and there a planter's house. We saw also at a distance from these houses, numbers of slave cots, apparantly from 6 to 9 feet square; some of them whitewashed, but most of them very dirty. The children that were running about them were nearly naked. We saw numbers of wild ducks, a few turkeys, and wild geese, but not near so many as we expected. As we got higher up the river, we saw here and there a settler, who appeared comfortable; their support arising from cutting and selling wood to the steamers, yet they had not that appearence of comfort so much spoken of in England. The boat stopping to take in wood, April 10, gave us an opportunity of going on shore in hope of seeing something or other to please us. Some of the company went out to shoot, but returned saying they could shoot more in England. Others who went to gather flowers were also disappointed; for in many places there was not so much as a blade of grass; I went out to get some flowers for my children but I could not find so much as a bluebell, or a common buttercup. The cattle also appeared to be very poor. Being disappointed with the sight of the country, I turned my attention to get information from the Americans who were going up the river with us. The steerage being full of passengers, I had the good fortune to get in the cabin amongst the gentlemen; some of them were tradesmen, some farmers, and some known by the name of sharpers in England. One of them was a slave dealer, who had been to the southern states to purchase slaves. He had on the boat with us 4 men, 4 women, and 3 children slaves; they all had not so much as a bed to lie on, or a rug to cover them in the night; they lay on the floor without covering; their food was served them out of the leavings of the cabin table, and brought them in a trough, with not so much as a knife, or fork, a spoon. I never remember seeing their master with them more than three times during five days they were with us; the first time was when one of the men was sick, and the master gave him some common salt; another time a fire having broken out in the boat, he came as if to take care of them; and lastly to tell them to get ready for leaving the boat. Having an opportunity of talking with these slaves, they told me when they were at work their food consisted chiefly of Indian-corn, meal, salt beef, and pork; sometimes they got a few sweet potatoes. Their owners, they said, were sometimes very cruel with them. This slave owner appeared to be void of natural feeling, and took no more care of them than an Irishman would of his pigs. I had also an opportunity of seeing the conduct of the other gentlemen, which was very unbecoming; their conversation being generally boasting of their fine country and liberty, or else venting their spleen against England and its government. As we stopped at the towns and villages to take in and put off freight, I inquired from the labouring classes, and found there were many out of employment, the farmers also saying they could not pay wages. At these places we began to find the Americans to be a different people to what we expected; instead of their being a kind and hospitable people, we found them a set of hardened villains; for when the boat stopped, they came on board with bread, milk, butter, and other articles, and seeing that we were strangers, they were few of us escaped being cheated. This principle I found prevailing and practised upon strangers in every place we came to. I have seen milk sold at 10 cents per quart, and bread much dearer than in England. I and my wife were often charged more for our victuals than the Americans.

On the 10th of April we landed at St. Louis. Here our company separated; some went one way and some another. I, with upwards of 100 more, sailed on the 12th of April to our expected home (Nauvoo), a distance of 180 miles from St. Louis, up the Mississippi.

On the 13th of April we came in sight of the landing place; the steamboat bell announced our arrival; we were now in the hopes of finding friends, and meeting with a kind reception. The inhabitants of this place (Nauvoo) being chiefly Saints or Mormons, we expected to be treated as brethren. When the boat landed, we found a few of the poor people collected together, but these shewed us very little kindness. With help of the boatmen, we soon got our luggage on shore; it was then eight o'clock in the evening, and meeting with a cool reception from the poor, we looked round in hopes of seeing Joseph Smith, the prophet, or some of the 12 Apostles or heads of the church; but we looked in vain, for no one came to see us, or advise with us. Some of our company met with friends who had gone from England to this place last year; these made them welcome to their homes, but I, along with others, remained till dark. We then prepared for going to rest on the river side. There being a large barn at a distance, the owner came and told us we were welcome to the barn. This man, I was told, had been a Mormon but was not then. We accepted his offer thankfully, took in our beds, and many went to sleep. The night passed away, and no one came to see us. At day-break we kindled a fire on the river side to make breakfast, though some of our company had not a crumb of bread to break their fast with; happily for me and my family, we had some sea biscuits; some of these, though very bad, my wife gave to those who wanted. I looked round this morning to see for Joseph Smith or some of the heads, but all in vain. I left my family on the river side and set out in search of a relative of ours who had gone there last year; this man was one of the heads of the Mormon church in England; he had often been at our house (in England); we had made him welcome to the best we had, and assisted him to come to this land (Nauvoo), therefore I expected to find in his house a home for the present. I was told that he lived three miles from where we landed. I soon found the house, went in, and made myself known to his wife, but she appeared surprised, and went and told her husband. He came but was indifferent towards me. I begged that he would help me with my family to his house until I got somewhere else to go. He took his waggon and fetched them. We left many of the company there, who remained there all day, so I was not the worst used. Being settled, as I thought, for a few days, I went out to seek for a house and labour for myself but found neither. Night approaching, I returned to my family. Our little children being worn out with fatigue wanted their bed, (these we had taken with us). We asked where we could spread our beds, and were told to take them up into the loft, whereas we

could have laid them on the house floor. The house (which was called a good comfortable one in that neighbourhood) was not more than 12 feet square, there being very little furniture in it, only one bed, a small crib for the children, three chairs, and a large box for a table. Though farming 40 acres of land, and having three cows, some pigs and poultry, yet they had not so much as a mug for their milk. I do not mention this to expose them, but merely to show how they are in want of these necessary things that are so plentiful in England. Feeling thankful for this loft, which had no steps to go up, we hauled our beds up the side of the chimney, and put our children to rest. While we were in bed we could see the moon, and when the rain fell it came upon us; yet I say this was a good house in comparison with some. The following few days I spent in viewing the city, which I was told is four miles square, and to the best of my knowledge, 200 houses, and about 1,500 inhabitants. The houses are, some log, some frame, and some few brick. Rents are very high; the log houses are four to five dollars per week. Wood fuel is very dear; it will cost for one fire the year round one dollar per week. The land there varies much in price, being chiefly owned by the heads of the Mormon church; that near the intended temple is 800 to 1,200 dollars per acre, that on the outside, 40 dollars per acre and upwards.

I went to see the temple, which had been represented to us in England to exceed the last at Jerusalem in beauty; but here I was disappointed. It has much the appearance at present of one of our common stone Sunday schools. The length, to the best of my knowledge, is 120 feet, and the breadth 60 feet—the walls from 3 to 4 feet above the level of the ground, and all was of inferior workmanship. We had been led to expect that it was nearly finished before we left England. The Nauvoo house (or house of accommodation) was nothing like what I expected to find, the foundations being scarcely finished. I passed by their burying ground, and was told that 50 or more of my country people had been laid there this last year. I next inquired how the poor got a living (there being no trade in this place), and was told that some worked at the temple, some at the Nauvoo house, and some went to the neighbouring farmers. Their wages—which were mostly paid in Indian-corn meal, pork, or salt beef—run as follows:—stone masons, 1 to 1¼ dollars per day; and common labourers, ¾ to 1 dollar per day. I met one poor woman who told me, with tears in her eyes, that her family of four children had been four months at once and never tasted of wheat bread. Her husband was a stone-mason; and laboured at the temple, where they seldom get any thing in return but Indian-corn meal, or pickled pork, for their wages. I went to see the store house, (or Joseph Smith's store,) which was a large brick building. Here all the tithes, or tenths as they call them, are deposited, which are brought from the farmers belonging to the Mormonites. Here I saw four clerks, and was told that they were chiefly employed in the store, and were of Smith's family. The people in general look very sickly, though the heads of the church profess to have the power to heal sickness. I was told that many died there last year, and that the doctors had been very busy. I now began to be tired of this place; for I could not find a single thing the same as had been represented—the land very poor; the people sickly and hard hearted towards each other; money and labour both scarce. On the Sabbath day I went to hear them preach, (in hopes of seeing the prophet), which was in the open air; not in a fine shady grove, as we had been told in England. The first speaker spoke much the same as I had heard in England; the second and third were all about wanting money to build the temple; telling them that if they had no money, to bring their cattle, and they would sell them for them. This was the morning service; the afternoon the people have for their own amusement—so I was informed. The heads of the church are very strict in gathering tithes, and it is required of every poor man to give every 10th day in labouring at the temple. Provisions at Joseph Smith's store and one or two others, are much higher than at New Orleans; milk and butter are very poor and scarce. The cows are poor, and the pigs are such as I cannot describe. This may appear strange, but it is true. This place has been set forth as a paradise by the Mormonites; but I saw places that would not grow a blade of grass. I have also seen cows run to a tuft of grass like dogs after a bone. I went to see Joseph Smith, the prophet, at his own house, but he was not at home. His house is much superior to any in the city. This same day I met with a man who had been one of our company; he was a farmer from the west of England. He said he had been with Joseph Smith to look at some land. He had bought ten acres, and had given £60 in gold for it. This was wood-land neither fenced, nor so much as a log house upon it. I asked him what sort of a man Joseph Smith was. He said, he is much like one of our rakish young men in England. I heard another of our company give him the same character. I also heard several of the Americans speak evil both of him and all the heads of the church. The same day I met with an old man who had been there about two years. He told me that he had been badly used, and had written several letters to his family near Preston, but had received no answer. He, as well as many others, told me, that they believed all letters were broken open and the bad ones detained. The postmaster was Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith's secretary. I was also told that the laws of the city compelled all above and under age to take the oath of allegiance to bear arms and learn military duty. All new-comers must comply with this before 14 days, or they are subject to a fine or imprisonment. I could perceive a difference betwixt us and the Americans, and was told that all dirty, laborious work fell upon the new-comers. I saw many of our company who had been obliged to turn out and do any thing to get a bit of bread. They could scarcely walk, and some of them came and begged of my wife the sea biscuit we had left on our voyage.

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